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S.C. SUPREME COURT

# Exhibit A

Mikal D. Mahdi Autopsy Report



PROFESSIONAL PATHOLOGY SERVICES, PC

One Science Court, Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29203  
REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

NAME: MAHDI, MIKAL

AUTOPSY #: FA25-166

DOB: 3/20/1983 (Age: 42)

RACE: AfricanAmerican

SEX: M

CHART #:

DATE OF DEATH: 4/11/2025 18:05

DATE OF AUTOPSY: 4/12/2025 07:45

REQUESTOR: Bradley J. Marcus, MD

PROSECTOR: Bradley J. Marcus, MD

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**FINAL ANATOMICAL DIAGNOSES**

- I. MULTIPLE, DISTANT RANGE, PENETRATING GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE LEFT CHEST WITH RESULTANT:
- A. SKIN AND SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE DISRUPTION WITH ASSOCIATED HEMORRHAGE.
  - B. RIGHT VENTRICLE PERFORATIONS WITH ASSOCIATED HEMORRHAGE.
  - C. LEFT HEMOTHORAX (~1000 ML).
  - D. MACERATION OF THE LEFT LIVER LOBE.
  - E. MACERATION OF THE PANCREAS.
  - F. HEMOPERITONEUM (~500 ML).
  - G. LEFT LOWER LUNG LOBE PERFORATION WITH ASSOCIATED HEMORRHAGE.
  - H. SOFT TISSUE AND BONE DISRUPTION.
  - I. MULTIPLE COPPER COLORED AND GRAY METAL PROJECTILE FRAGMENTS RECOVERED.
- II. INTEGUMENTAL ABRASION TO UPPER LEFT BACK.

**CAUSE OF DEATH: MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE CHEST.**

\*\*\*\*If further information (forensic or otherwise) becomes available at a later time and is pertinent to the autopsy findings, I reserve the right to amend the report and cause of death statement.\*\*\*\*

BJM: 4/14/2025.

\*\*\*Electronically Signed Out at Professional Pathology Services By Bradley J. Marcus, MD\*\*\*

**CASE SUMMARY:**

The decedent was a 42-year-old black male who was executed by the State as part his sentence at the Broad River Correctional Institution on April 11, 2025. The decedent was pronounced dead at 6:05 PM. For further information please refer to the Department of Corrections Records.

Autopsy was consented by next of kin.

**GROSS ANATOMICAL DESCRIPTION:**

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, adult black male, who weighs approximately 225 pounds, is 68 inches in length, and appears compatible with the reported age of 42 years. The body is identified by the South Carolina Department of Corrections, in addition the body bag is labeled with the name "Mikal Mahdi". The body is cool to the touch. Rigor is fully fixed (4/4) in all extremities and jaw. Diffuse, unfixed, purple livor extends over the posterior surfaces of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure. The scalp hair is brown/gray with early male pattern baldness. The irides are brown and the pupils are bilaterally equal. The cornea are transparent. The sclerae and conjunctivae are unremarkable. The nose and ears are not unusual. Blood exudes from the nares. The lips and gums are pale. The teeth are in good condition. The neck is without masses, and the larynx is in the midline. The thorax is symmetrical with an anteroposterior/lateral ratio of about 1:2. The abdomen is slightly protuberant. The penis is circumcised and unremarkable; the testes are bilaterally descended within a bloated scrotum. The anus and back are unremarkable. The upper and lower extremities are well-developed and symmetrical without absence of digits. Identifying marks and scars are not readily apparent. Evidence of emergency resuscitation and/or medical therapy is not identified.

**EVIDENCE OF INJURY**

**THORAX AND ABDOMEN: MULTIPLE, DISTANT RANGE, PENETRATING GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE LEFT CHEST:**

An approximate 0.5 x 0.5" entrance gunshot wound (A) is to the left chest, 18.75 inches from the top of the head and 1.4 inches to the left of the midline. A circumferential abrasion border is up to 0.2 inch at the 6 and 12:00 positions. Soot is not grossly visualized. Stippling is not grossly visualized.

The bullet pathway is through the skin and subcutaneous tissue of the left chest, the anterior left intercostal space #5, the pericardial sac, the right ventricle, the diaphragm, the left liver lobe, the pancreas, and into the lateral aspect of left T11 vertebral body where the wound tract ends.

Resultant injuries include the following: Skin and subcutaneous tissue disruption with associated hemorrhage, left chest wall and sternum fractures with associated hemorrhage, perforation of the right ventricle, left hemothorax (~1000 mL of blood), maceration of the left liver lobe, maceration of the pancreas, hemoperitoneum (~500 mL) and bone and soft tissue disruption of the T11 vertebral body.

Multiple copper colored and gray metal fragments are recovered.

The approximate trajectory of the bullet pathway is backward, downward and to the right.

An approximate 0.5 x 0.4" entrance gunshot wound (B) is to the left chest, 19 inches to the top of the head and 2.4 inches to the left of midline. An eccentric abrasion border up to 0.35 inch is at the 10 o'clock position. Soot is not grossly visualized. Stippling is not grossly visualized.

The bullet pathway skin and subcutaneous tissue of the left chest, anterior left intercostal space #5, the pericardium, the right ventricle, the left lower lung lobe, and into the posterior 10th intercostal space where the wound tract ends.

Resultant injuries include the following: Skin and subcutaneous tissue disruption with associated hemorrhage, right ventricle perforation, left lower lung lobe perforation with associated hemorrhage, soft tissue disruption with associated hemorrhage of the 10th intercostal space.

The approximate trajectory of the bullet pathway is backward, downward and to the right.

Multiple copper colored and gray metal fragments are recovered.

**COMMENT:**

It is believed that gunshot wound labeled (A) represents two gunshot wound pathways.

**OTHER INJURIES:** A 0.2 inch abrasion over the upper left back.

*The previously described injuries will not be repeated.*

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION**

**BODY CAVITIES:** Excluding the injuries described under "Evidence of Injury", the serosal membranes are thin, smooth, and glistening. No adhesions or abnormal collections of fluid are in any of the body cavities. All body organs are present in normal anatomical positions.

**HEAD (CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM):** The brain weighs 1500 grams. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels are intact and free of abnormality. Sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions within the cortex, subcortical white matter, or deep parenchyma of either hemisphere. The basal ganglia, thalami, and Ammon's horns are unremarkable. The cerebral ventricles are of normal caliber. Sections through the brainstem and cerebellum are unremarkable.

**NECK:** Examination of the soft tissues of the neck, including strap muscles, thyroid gland, and large vessels reveals no abnormalities. Parathyroids are indistinct and not clearly identified. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** Excluding the injuries described under "Evidence of Injury", the heart weighs 400 grams. The pericardial surfaces are smooth, glistening and unremarkable; the pericardial sac is free of significant fluid or adhesions. The coronary arteries arise normally, follow the usual distribution and are widely patent without evidence of significant atherosclerosis or thrombosis. The cardiac vein appears normal. The chambers and valves bear the usual size-position relationships and are unremarkable. The myocardium is dark red-brown, firm, and unremarkable; the atrial and ventricular septae are intact. The aorta and its major branches arise normally, follow the usual course and are widely patent, free of significant atherosclerosis and other abnormality. The venae cavae and their major tributaries return to the heart in the usual distribution and are free of thrombi.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** Excluding the injuries described under "Evidence of Injury", the right and left lungs weigh 540 and 390 grams, respectively. The upper airway is clear of debris and foreign material; the mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellow-tan and unremarkable. The pleural surfaces are smooth, glistening and unremarkable. Lobar divisions are of the usual configuration. The pulmonary parenchyma is dark red-purple, exuding slight to moderate amounts of blood and frothy fluid; no focal lesions are noted. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed, patent, and without thrombus or embolus.

**LIVER AND BILIARY SYSTEM:** Excluding the injuries described under "Evidence of Injury", the liver weighs 1350 grams. The hepatic capsule is smooth, glistening and intact, covering red-brown parenchyma with no focal lesions noted. The gallbladder contains scant amounts of yellow-green-brown, slightly mucoid bile; the mucosa is velvety and unremarkable. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent without evidence of calculi. The portal vein and its tributaries are unremarkable.

**ALIMENTARY TRACT:** The esophagus is lined by gray-white, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual rugal folds, and the lumen contains 50 mL of partially of partially digested food. The small and large bowels are unremarkable. The appendix is present. The pancreas has a normal gray-white, lobulated appearance, and the ducts appear clear.

**GENITOURINARY TRACT:** The right and left kidneys weigh 200 and 190 grams, respectively. The renal capsules are smooth and thin, semi-transparent and strip with ease from the underlying, smooth, red-brown, firm, cortical surfaces. The cortices are sharply delineated from the medullary pyramids, which are red-purple to tan and unremarkable. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable. The relationships at the trigone are unremarkable. The urinary bladder is empty.

**RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM:** The spleen weighs 100 grams and has a smooth, intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma; the lymphoid follicles are unremarkable. The regional lymph nodes appear normal.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The thyroid and adrenal glands are unremarkable.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** Excluding the injuries described under "Evidence of Injury", the bony framework, supporting musculature, and soft tissues are not unusual.

**TOXICOLOGY:** Not performed.

All body organs not retained for diagnostic purposes are returned to the body.

**CASSETTE SUMMARY:**

1. Heart
2. Left lung, liver, pancreas, spleen, thyroid gland
3. Right lung, adrenal glands
4. Kidneys
5. Cerebral cortex, cerebellum

BJM: 4/14/2025.

**MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION:**

Blocks are saved for further testing is needed.

Signed out by Professional Pathology Services at CLIA # 42D0249417

\*\*\*Electronically Signed Out By Bradley J. Marcus, MD \*\*\*